



County of San Diego
Department of the Alternate Public Defender
110 West "C" Street, Suite 1100
San Diego, CA 92101



Volunteer position description:
Social Work Volunteer

Social Work volunteers are responsible for a large number of cases, usually assigned on a crisis intervention basis. The majority of the client base is comprised of the primary parents of abused and neglected children.

The volunteers work with attorneys, social workers, and other professionals in the family and child welfare arena. One of the main contributions is providing an assessment and evaluation of the various social welfare delivery systems that impact the family, including the court, Health & Human Services Agency, social workers and other professionals and services.

Volunteers should have personal attributes such as maturity, stability, sensitivity, patience and friendliness, as well as a wide variety of successful life experiences to bring to the volunteer - parent relationship. It is expected that volunteers will provide non-judgmental supportive friendship and act as a role model for the parent. The ability to maintain client confidentiality is mandatory.

Typical activities of a Social Work volunteer:

1. Assist the parent in understanding the requirements set forth by the Dependency Court in the Family Reunification Plan.
2. Assist the parent in contacting the service referrals listed in the reunification plan and aid the parent in following through with those services.
3. Provide the attorney with regular updates regarding the parent's progress.
4. Provide limited transportation to parents (at the discretion of the department) for visitation, therapy appointments, court appearances, etc.
5. Provide a personal contact and outlet for the parent to discuss fears, concerns and frustrations.

Training: Social Work volunteers learn the legal codes applicable to family and child abuse areas, and receive an orientation and monthly meetings/training on child abuse and related issues.

Commitment: Social Work volunteers are expected to make a commitment of approximately 20 hours per month for three to four months.